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a work in economic geography whose readers may be economists, historians or business men. The "American massif," for example, has little significance for the man untrained in technical physiography and the use of "primary rocks," "pre-Cambrian age," etc., in its description, is forbidding to the general reader and not essential to the trained geographer's appreciation of the surface features of the region.

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AGRICULTURE, MINING, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

HUEBNER, GROVER G. *Agricultural Commerce*. Pp. xiv, 406. Price, \$2.00. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1915.

A subtitle reads *The Organization of American Commerce in Agricultural Commodities*, and this is a good general description of the contents. Over half of the book is taken up with descriptions of the trade in specific commodities, viz., grain, cotton, live stock, wool, tobacco, and fruit. It will be noticed that fruit, the treatment of which is very general, is the only one of these commodities which goes through to the consumer without an intervening manufacturing process. No attention is paid to butter, eggs, poultry, or vegetables, except that we are told that the trade in vegetables is similar to that in fruit. There are also chapters on speculation, inspection and grading, collection and dissemination of crop reports, insurance, financing, prices, and foreign trade.

In describing the trade organization and marketing practices for different commodities, well selected statistics are introduced to show the location of production areas, the volume marketed, and the quantities exported and imported. The methods of marketing at local points and in central wholesale markets are then discussed, and good accounts of the functions of certain middlemen are given.

The author has apparently done little or no first-hand investigating of marketing practices in order to procure information that had not already found its way into print, but the book is valuable and serviceable in that it brings together in convenient form a collection of facts from scattered sources. There is very little discussion of fundamental problems of market distribution; and controversial matters, such as the number of middlemen, the value of public markets and direct marketing, etc., are not touched on.

There is very little in the book with which one can take issue. Line elevators in the grain trade (p. 40) were in operation before 1889; the "on track" sale in this trade (p. 86) usually refers to sales on track at country points rather than in primary markets; the auction companies in the fruit trade (p. 252) rarely receive consignments direct from growers, and many of the largest ones absolutely refuse to do so. The description of the various middlemen in the wholesale fruit and vegetable trade is inadequate, in view of the importance of this branch of the marketing machinery. But these are minor matters. Considering the main purpose of the book—a description of the commerce in important agricultural staples which are principally raw materials for manufacturing industries—the work is valuable and well executed.

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